TL199

tapol

The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW, UK
Telephone 081 771 2904. Fax 081 653 0322

Honorary President:
Lord Avebury
Honorary Treasurer:
Tom Soper
Organising Secretary
Carmel Budiardjo

31 December 1991

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali,
Secretary General of the United Nations,
UN Secretariat,
New York

Dear Dr Boutros Ghali,

May I, on behalf of TAPOL, the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign, congratulate you as you take over as Secretary General of the United Nations.

Since the Indonesian invasion of East Timor, this organisation has consistently supported the people of that illegally occupied country. We petition the UN Decolonisation Committee every year and present submissions to the UN Human Rights Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The question of East Timor is one of the most critical, unresolved issues on the UN's agenda, despite the adoption of two Security Council and eight General Assembly resolutions calling for an act of self-determination.

The massacre of several hundred peaceful demonstrators in Dili on 12 November 1991 has drawn world attention to East Timor on an unprecedented scale. The East Timorese people, today more than ever, expect the UN to extricate them from the injustices they have suffered during sixteen years of Indonesian occupation.

Your predecessor announced his intention to send a commission to East Timor to investigate the Santa Cruz massacre. It seems, however, that the Indonesian authorities are determined to prevent any international investigation from taking place. The situation in East Timor is grim; repression is worsening, fear of the forces of occupation is greater than ever and any investigation by the forces of occupation into the 12 November tragedy can only lead to more intimidation. The East Timorese people, understandably, will never trust those very authorities which have committed so many atrocities during the years of Indonesia's illegal occupation of their country.

TAPOL calls on you to press for a UN mission to visit East Timor without delay. The task of the mission should not be confined to investigating the tragedy of 12 November; it should also provide continuing protection to the people of East Timor. We also urge you to take up with vigour the question of East Timor's right to self-determination. Unless this basic problem is resolved, there can be no end to the tragedy. Any further prolongation of Indonesia's illegal and brutal occupation of East Timor is not only a tragedy for the East Timorese; it is a grave blemish on the implementation of United Nations principles enshrined in the UN Charter and UN Resolution 1514 (XV) on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo

31-12-91 21:23
081*653*0322
875 P01